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E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE II DIVERSIONS FOR ETHIOPIA

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 5919; (B) STATE 367850

1. REF B ADVISES THAT OF TEN THOUSAND METRIC TONS ANNOUNCED FOR DIVERSION TO ETHIOPIA ONLY 4022 WILL IN FACT ARRIVE. REASON GIVEN FOR NOT SHIPPING REMAINING SIX THOUSAND TONS IS THAT IT WOULD NOT ARRIVE UNTIL END DECEMBER OR JANUARY. AND THAT OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS IS PROJECTED TO ARRIVE IN ETHIOPIA IN DECEMBER ANYWAY. DESPITE THIS CDAA EXPECTS A SHORTFALL AND SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BORROW FROM RRC (SEE ADDIS ABABA 5919). AN IN ANY EVENT WE ARE LEFT WITH AN UNWELCOME PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM. PROSPECT OF DIVERSION OF TEN THOUSAND TONS TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP WAS HELD OUT IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL MADE TO THE PRESIDENT BY CODEL LELAND, AND WAS COMMUNICATED BY MR. LELAND AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AND OTHER SENIOR PMGSE FIGURES. IT WAS SEEN HERE AS AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN COMMITMENT.

2. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT AID MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND OTHER SUPPLIES NEAR AT HAND THAT COULD BE GOTTEN HERE BEFORE END OF THE MONTH, TO MAKE A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND TONS. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, RECOMMEND THAT ~~CONGRESSION LELAND~~ BE FULLY BRIEFED ON HANDLING OF THIS MATTER.

KORN

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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